

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 274  
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate W. Allan Jones, Jr.  
upon his induction into the University of  
Tennessee-Chattanooga's Clarence E. Harris  
Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor those professionals  
who, through their originality and innovative vision, have created and maintained successful  
businesses that are a credit to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, W. Allan Jones is one such incredibly successful professional, having  
recently earned induction into the Clarence E. Harris Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame at the  
University of Tennessee-Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the U.T.C. College of Business Administration founded the Hall of Fame to  
honor Chattanooga entrepreneurs who represent both the early foundations of entrepreneurship  
in the region, as well as current area entrepreneurs; the Hall of Fame highlights entrepreneurs  
in society and creates entrepreneurial role models for aspiring business students; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones was selected for his steadfast dedication to the free enterprise  
system, his entrepreneurial spirit, and his passion for his hometown; and

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WHEREAS, W. Allan Jones came into his father's business, Credit Bureau Services of Cleveland, at the age of 20, while still a student at Middle Tennessee State University; working long hours, Mr. Jones eventually expanded the company to include nearly a dozen offices from Atlanta to Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones credits his father, the late W.A. (Bill) Jones, Sr., with instilling in him the strong work ethic and self-confidence that have allowed him to form two new companies in the Cleveland area; and

WHEREAS, W. Allan Jones, Jr., founded Jones Properties, LLC, in 1973, in order to provide assistance in his envisioned refurbishing of Cleveland's downtown and the revitalization of that community's business district; through Jones Properties, Mr. Jones purchased several commercial and residential properties in downtown Cleveland and began renovations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones became a pioneer in the payday cash-advance industry when he founded Check Into Cash, Inc., in 1993; and

WHEREAS, by late 2002, the company had established more than 700 Check Into Cash stores; today, the company makes more than 500,000 transactions a month; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones has also been an industry leader in working to adopt legislation to regulate cash advances in order to protect and better serve customers; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with his two businesses, Mr. Jones still finds time to lend his remarkable talents to environmental work and community philanthropy in Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, as the first Chairman of the Cleveland Tree Board, Mr. Jones initiated a "No Topping Zone" policy for the city and helped to pen the Tree Ordinance; for his work in such capacity, Mr. Jones has been recognized by the Mayor's office by assuring him that the city will maintain its Tree City status, a National Arbor Foundation designation; and

WHEREAS, an avid collegiate wrestling enthusiast, W. Allan Jones, Jr., founded and financed the first Cleveland/Bradley Wrestling Club and contributes annually to help deserving young wrestlers by providing uniforms or camp scholarships; and

WHEREAS, in his tireless dedication to the revitalization of the Cleveland community business district, W. Allan Jones, Jr., also founded and twice served as president of MainStreet Cleveland, an organization whose mission is to preserve the history of downtown Cleveland and to revitalize its businesses; and

WHEREAS, W. Allan Jones, Jr. is truly a remarkable and astute businessman who contributes much to the greater good of Cleveland and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to this honorable man for his efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Mr. W. Allan Jones, Jr. on his many business accomplishments and his induction into the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga's Clarence E. Harris Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, and wish him the best in his every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.